

Comprehensive Plan Community Engagement Ward 6 Meeting Summary

Overview

On Wednesday, November 13, the Office of Planning (OP) hosted its third of eight community meetings planned for the fall of 2019, coordinated in partnership with LINK Strategic Partners (LINK). The purpose of this series of meetings is to present an update on the Draft Comprehensive Plan Update, including the major themes and any area elements specific to the meeting location. The meetings also intend to share an overview of the community engagement process to date and close the loop on feedback collected from District stakeholders thus far. The central question posed to attendees during the discussion period following an overview presentation is, “What would you like OP to share with your Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC)?”

Location and Attendance

The meeting took place at St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church, located in the Southwest Waterfront neighborhood within Ward 6. The event was held in a basement community meeting area and the large space was set up with central theater-style seating, surrounded by the five Gallery Walk stations. Representatives from the DC Census and the Department of Housing and Community Development were also tabling on site. Our sign-in sheet registered 54 attendees. Of those 54, two identified as residents of Ward 6, two identified as residents of ANC 6A, three identified as residents of ANC 6B, three identified as residents of ANC 6C, one identified as a resident of ANC 6D, and one identified as a resident of Ward 2. The other registered attendees did not identify their ANC or Ward of residence.

Run of Show

ANC 6D Chairperson Gail Fast provided greetings to attendees and demonstrated a depth of understanding of the Comprehensive Plan and a commitment to facilitate feedback from constituents. LINK Managing Director Josh Lasky acknowledged representatives of the Executive Office of the Mayor, staff from DC Councilmembers’ offices, and additional ANC Commissioners in attendance. OP Director Andrew Trueblood provided welcome remarks and introduced OP Deputy Director Anita Cozart, who presented a thorough update on the Comprehensive Plan. LINK Managing Director Josh Lasky facilitated a 10-minute question and answer (Q&A) session and directed attendees to join OP and LINK staff for discussion at the Gallery Walk stations.



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Major Themes and Key Takeaways from Feedback

- Housing equity and affordability was a focus area for many attendees. Housing was a theme at multiple stations during the Gallery Walk, where OP staff answered questions and worked to provide clarity on the Comprehensive Plan's measures.
- Several attendees voiced their interest in increased density within neighborhoods of Ward 6, specifically around transit hubs and existing low-density residential areas.
- Many attendees had questions about transportation and the Comprehensive Plan's efforts to increase walkability and age-friendly street design.
- Many residents brought questions related to specific developments or planned uses for specific parcels of land. Given the relatively short time frame for the implementation of these uses, many attendees were encouraged to take action through their ANC.

